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# A NEW SPECIES OF *CHALCIS* FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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As the genus *Chalcis* has undergone considerable change in comparatively recent years, a brief summary of its status in nomenclature and salient characters must be given in order that the systematic position of the following new species may be clear. The name *Chalcis* is now applied to those species long known under the name *Smicra*, as limited by Thomson.[2] The present usage of the name *Chalcis* agrees with Westwood's[3] use of it. Almost all the species, however, placed in *Chalcis* by Cresson, Ashmead, Ruschka, and others are now referred to *Brachymeria*. The reasons for these changes in nomenclature were given several years ago by Gahan and Fagan.[4]

The more important generic characters for *Chalcis* are these: antennae 13-segmented, inserted approximately in center of frons; right mandible always with 3 teeth, left with 2 or 3, dorsal tooth of either mandible always largest and longest; legs and venter of body densely covered with short, hydrofuge pubescence, dorsum with longer, more scattered pubescence; protarsal claws of male bifid at apex, those of female simple, teeth or spines present at bases of all claws in both sexes; prepectus wholly or partly concealed; metacoxae elongate, slender, without a smooth asetose area on outer dorsal surface; metafemora enlarged and outer ventral margin provided with teeth; gaster globose, third abdominal segment occupying at least one-half entire dorsal length of gaster; female hypopygium conspicuously exserted; ninth sternite of male excavated in mesal area and emarginate at apex.

All species of *Chalcis* in Europe or North America that have been reared have come from the larvae of Stratiomyiidae; it is probable that all species of this genus have the same habit.

### **Chalcis arapha,** new species

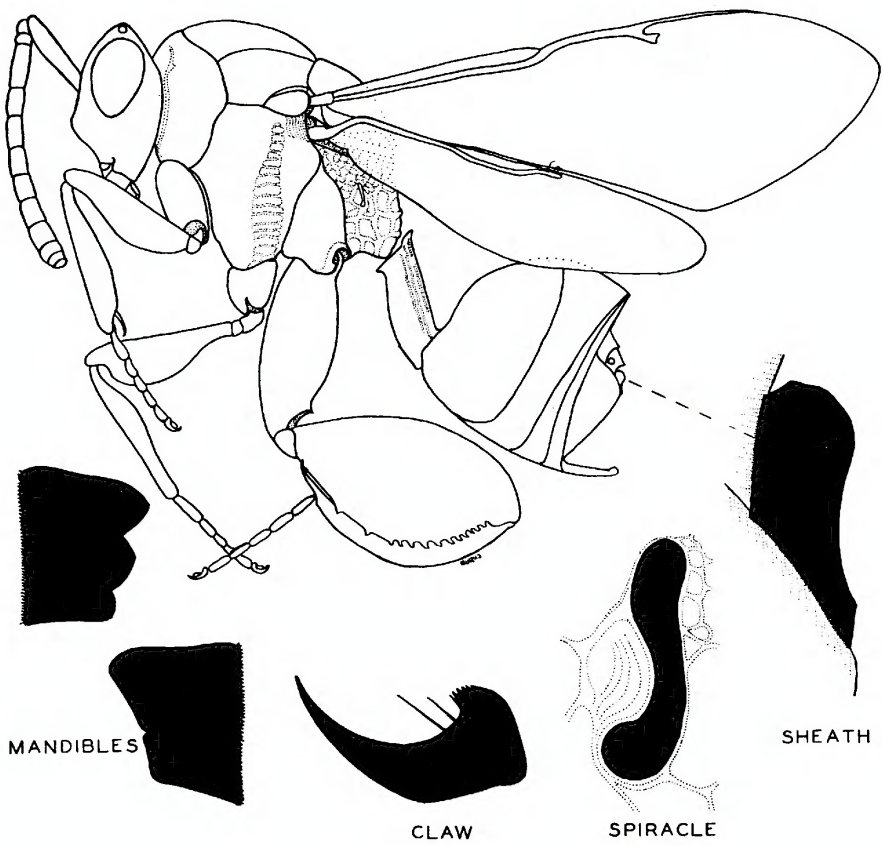
FEMALE.—6 mm. Antennae, head, thorax, all coxae, bases of pro- and metafemora, propodeum, petiole, and apex of abdomen, black; dorso-lateral angles of prothorax, postero-lateral angles of mesopraescutum, two postero-lateral spots on mesoscutellum, tegulae, apices of pro- and metafemora, bases of pro- and metatibiae, outer basal ventral angle and broad subapical band on metafemora, basal spot on metatibiae, and all tarsi, yellow; mandibles, remaining parts of all legs, and basal part of gaster, brown.

Antennal scape exceeding level of vertex; ring segment three-fifths length of pedicel, segment 4 one-third longer than 5, segments 5 to 7 equal in length, 8 to 10 each one-eighth shorter than 7, combined lengths of segments 11 to 13 equal to length of 5; a series of transverse arcuate carinae present in dorsal part of scrobe cavity; minute, irregular carinae present on frons just ventrad of antennal bases; fronto-genal suture wanting; width of malar space slightly more than one-half height of compound eye; right mandible with three blunt teeth, left with two (see figure); diameter of posterior ocellus slightly less than one-half width of inter-ocellar space.

Anterior margin of pronotum carinate only at dorso-lateral angles; prepectus concealed; mesotibial spur wanting; apical lamina of mesoscutellum slightly depressed on meson; outer surface of metafemur densely covered by short, white pubescence, ventral margin with 13 minute teeth, basal 2 widely spaced; inner tooth present, minute; each claw with 2 or 3 long bristles and several short spines at base (see figure).

Surface of propodeum covered with conspicuous, irregular carinae; spiracular slits vertical, slightly wider ventrad than dorsad (as in figure); petiole one-half as long as metacoxa, dorsal and lateral surfaces bearing irregular carinae, a single row of bristles at each dorso-lateral margin; third abdominal tergite smooth, bearing an irregular row of bristles on either side; tergites 4 to 7 with long lateral bristles, tergite 8 completely covered with bristles; spiracles round; cerci minute, oval; apex of hypopygium isolated from eighth tergite; apex of

[1] Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Ill.
[2] 1875, Hymen. Skand., IV, p. 15.
[3] Introd. Mod. Class. Ins., II, p. 155; 1840, Synopsis, p. 65.
[4] 1923, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 124, pp. 31, 133.




*CHALCIS ARAPHA*

Fig. 1.

ovipositor sheath minutely angled and slightly incised on ventral margin (as in figure).

MALE.—Unknown.

TYPE LOCALITY.—Sanchez, Dominican Republic.

TYPE.—Female, American Museum of Natural History. Collected by F. E. Watson, 2 to 4 1/2 miles west of Sanchez, along railroad through jungle and swamp, May 22–27, 1915.

This species agrees with *Chalcis divisa* (Walker) from Orizaba, Mexico, in lacking a fronto-genal suture, but differs in that the metafemora have the outer basal tooth no longer than the following ones, an inner metafemoral tooth is present, and the petiole is reticulated rather than smooth; the two species differ considerably also in color, although color differences are not necessarily specific in this genus. *Chalcis flebilis* (Cresson) from the northeastern coniferous forest area of continental North America resembles *C. arapha* in sculpture and sometimes in color, but possesses a well-defined fronto-genal suture. *Chalcis arapha* is the first species of the genus to be described from Hispaniola.